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Public History Newsletter

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Spring 2011

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Public History Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Open the Toybox: Discover the World of Play

This spring Public History students in the HST 713 Historical Interpretation and Exhibits class designed and installed, "Open the Toybox: Discover the World of Play," at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. They held an opening reception on Thursday, June 9.

Twelve students were in the course and executed the exhibit from its beginning, starting in March, to the finished product visitors can view today. The class could not have accomplished this task without the help of many people and departments at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery (Dayton Society of Natural History) and Wright State University. Instructor, Lynn Hanson gave the students the opportunity to choose which function they would like to perform in the process. The roles consisted of artifact and



Left to right—back row: David Manges, Robin Heise, Maggie Zakri, Beth Morgan, Liz Koch. Front row: Elise Kelly, Jeri Knies, Phillip Elam, Jen Myers, Liz Haeuptle, Tricia McElDowney, Misti Spillman.

image hunter, event planning, graphics, media relations, budget, research, text and labels, and conceptual engineer. Despite the fact that students were assigned specific duties, jobs often overlapped and individuals were able to collaborate with one another. This helped the students better understand the requirements of each position and the importance of teamwork. Elise Kelly stated, "Having the hands-on experience in this class, I learned the many facets behind museum administration.

From the loan process, to the development of public relations, to exhibit design, each of these methods developed and improved my skills more. I also learned the importance of working as a team and following time and monetary

Featuring homemade heirlooms, hand-painted antiques, and even mass-produced icons, visitors can view the historical artifacts and play with their modern-day replicas as they explore the evolution of toys and their role in society.

Come look inside the toybox and discover a century of play at, "Open the Toybox: Discover the World of Play," which is open at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery until Monday, September 5.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Wright State University College of Liberal Arts, the

budgets."

"Open the Toybox" explores a century of play, from hand-sewn baseball gloves of yesteryear to the mass-produced Etch A Sketch® that was the "must-have" toy of the 1960s. Showcasing toys from 1850 to 1970, this exhibition evokes memories of rainy days and long summer afternoons in the sunshine as it highlights the history of creations designed to spark imagination.



Rainy day toy case



International doll case

Wright State University Department of History, and the Dayton Society of Natural History.

The Day in the Life of...
Nathan Troup
 State Records Management Program, Missouri
 Secretary of State

As an Electronic Records Archivist working in records management, I am never quite sure what my day will involve. The Records Management section is part of the Records Services division in the Missouri Secretary of State's Office as is the Missouri State Archives and the Local Records and Preservation Program.

I work with two Records Analysts and a Senior Records Analyst to develop record schedules for state agencies. Between the four of us, we work with approximately 865 state agencies and organizations to develop records retention schedules. A state agency cannot legally destroy records without first having a retention schedule approved by the State Records Commission.

Each Analyst or Archivist is responsible for working with specific agencies. However, if the agency needs consultation about electronic records I become involved in the conversation. I am also the technical lead for the state's electronic records tracking

system that allows us to know where every box, and in some cases, file, is in the states record centers. The State Record Center holds 40 miles of records, or around 300,000 cubic foot boxes between two buildings.

My day often begins with me checking my voicemail and email and responding to any questions or concerns ranging from urgent requests for files, or questions on how to use the tracking system.

On this day, we had what our office calls a roundtable. When working to develop a records schedule my co-workers and I present each other's draft schedules or record series to prepare them to go before the State Records Commission. Our record retention schedules consist of the series title, description, and cutoff for when the record becomes inactive, retention time and disposition. During these roundtables we make sure the series title and descrip-

tion accurately describe the records and that the retention time meets business requirements, which may mean researching state and federal statutes.

In a way, the records retention schedule can be seen as an early form of archival appraisal as we are deciding, in conjunction with the Archives what to keep and what may be destroyed. After roundtable, I then contact the agencies I'm responsible for with any comments or concerns.

In the afternoon, I was asked to visit the former offices of the Missouri State Water Patrol as they were consolidating with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. They had around seventy-five boxes of records and wanted help in identifying their series and if they were ready for destruction

Upon returning from the agency visit I returned calls to the Department of Corrections who needed help locating a file and the Department of Natural Resources who inquired about signing up for training on how to use the electronic tracking system. My office team trains workers from across the state a few times a month.

At different times I am



Nathan Troup is a 2008 graduate of the Public History program. Nathan is currently the Electronic Records Archivist for the State Records Management Program for the Missouri Secretary of State.

brought in on side projects, such as migrating old data from obsolete software, researching digital asset management systems for state agencies and in a current project am working with the University of Missouri and the Office of Administration – Information Technology Services Division to help them preserve electronic geographic information. This involves researching file formats, metadata standards and understanding their user's needs. Most of the data for this project is in proprietary file formats, which may cause problems for future access and preservation. I spent some time reviewing if there were alternative open formats, as well as what the significant properties of such files might be to lower the chances of important information being lost if the formats are normalized.

"Since graduating from the program in Winter of 2008, I have found the Public History program prepared me well for working in both archives and records management. I still use what I learned in my classes at Wright State every day."

Alumni News

Matthew Peek (2010), accepted a position as assistant editor for the "Up-and-Comers: News for Student Archivists" section of the MAC Newsletter, starting July 2011. **Garret Kremer-Wright (2007)** visited with **Jenna Edwards (2009)** (Project Archivist, at the South Florida Collections Management Center in Everglades National Park) and received a tour from her of their repository. **Matt Francis (2008)** recently accepted a new position as college archivist/head of archives and special collections at SUNY Potsdam. He will start working in August. Since **Daniel Schlegel (2009)** started at the Scurry County Museum a year ago, visitorship has gone from 50 people a month to 500 a month. The museum has expanded their hours and now offers workshops and programming for school groups, daycare centers, home-school groups, and families. They've partnered with Texas Tech University on a local prehistoric dig to promote both factions, which has sparked new potential partnerships for the museum. **Jessie Graham (2004)** finished her 7th year of

employment at the Library of Virginia as a senior state records archivist. **Jessie** married her husband, **Keith**, in October 2009 and gave birth to their son, **Ryan**, on May 13, 2011. **Stacy Gould (1991)** and her colleagues at the University of Hong Kong are getting the copy and photography done for their big exhibit in the autumn, working on the web pages, and staying busy as ever as she lost her secretary and one of their part timers. **Gillian Hill (1981)** and the Greene County Records Center and Archives were recently given an original 1855 map of Greene County. It has been digitized at the Ohio Historical Society and is available on their website. Both a Habeas Corpus book from their Probate Court records, listing underage boys who enlisted for the Union army and were then recalled and a soldier's letter from a civil war camp, held in their Probate Court guardianship records, were accepted by the Civil War 150 Ohio History Service Corps project and

OhioMemory. Their Archives building has been undermined by the infiltration of water into the brickwork and 200 years of Greene County historical records will have to be moved. **Jayna M. Hanson (2008)** has been a grant project archivist for the past three years at the Archives of American Art, funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art. The grant was recently awarded a second wave of funding that will keep the project going for another five years: <http://www.aaa.si.edu/news/terra-foundation-awards-second-multimillion-dollar-grant-to-archives>. **Lisa Rickey (2008)** graduated in May 2011

with a Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) from Wayne State University. **Karen Jean Hunt (1989)** is attending the World Library and Information Congress: 77th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, 13-18 August 2011, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. **David Brownell (2011)** is the new Research Assistant in the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for Big Cypress Seminole Reservation where he will be cataloging artifacts and conducting research on tribal history. **Brittany Guerra and Bonnie Roche (2011)** just started new curatorial jobs at the Franklin Park Conservatory in Columbus, OH.

"I am very grateful that the Wright State program included hands on experience via internships, projects, and class work. The ability to work in the field before I graduated allowed me to gain valuable skills so that I hit the ground running once I entered the public history profession."

~Jenna Edwards (2009)

Project Archivist, Everglades National Park, South Florida
Collections Management Center

Note from the Director: Dawne Dewey

Sometimes it is difficult to decide what to write about in my note to all of you. I could tell you how the program is growing and changing. I could talk about the great new class of students coming this fall, including our first international student. I could tell you how terrific all of the adjunct faculty are and the archives and mu-

seums that support us. I could mention semesters (again!) and how in the fall of 2012, we will be embarking on a new adventure with new schedules, requirements, and courses.

But I decided instead to just say thank you. Thank you for the privilege of being director. Thank you to Liz Haupte for being my graduate assistant.

You were terrific! Thank you to all of the students for their dedication, excitement and passion for history. Thank you to all of the adjunct faculty who teach in our program.

In addition to being thankful, I want to remind each of you to remember that the people who cross your path are more important than any grade, class,

or project you undertake.

Have a great summer. Work hard. Learn a lot. Relax a little. Dream big.

See you in September.

Dawne

Remembering Edna Diggs

Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries

Dawne Dewey, Director, Public History program; Head, Special Collections and Archives

Edna Diggs, Interim Director of the Nat Afro American Museum and Cultural Center and one of the adjuncts for the Public History program, passed away on June 6th. Edna taught the Museum Interpretation and Exhibits class every other year for our public history program and had done so for over a decade. She participated in adjunct faculty retreats to develop new classes and improve the program. She was a great teacher and mentor to our students. She contributed her time and talents to making our students better public historians and individuals. Students responded to her positive approach and came away with more than museum skills; they came away with life skills. She will be greatly missed.

Ohio Historical Society *Burt Logan, Executive Director*

Many of you have known Edna over the 27 years that she worked at OHS. Or you may have seen or met Edna when she was in Columbus recently to help share with us the launching of "Controversy: Pieces You Don't Normally See." Many of you have visited the NAAMCC in Wilberforce, either on your assignments in relation to OHS or for the pure pleasure of being an Ohio history buff. Her commitment to presenting the African American experience was evident throughout the museum.

Edna was a very important part of the OHS family, and she was a woman of many talents with an abiding passion for the intertwining of African American history and Ohio history. But her true love was exhibit development. In her tenure with us, she served in a number

of capacities including curating and developing exhibits, such as the 2009 exhibit "Quilting African American Women's History: Our Challenges, Creativity, and Champions," and the more recent "Journey of Hope in America: Quilts Inspired By President Barack Obama," which she co-produced with independent curator, Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi. This exhibit was a huge success at the museum and now is a traveling exhibit. In addition, Edna assisted with other OHS exhibits, including "Soul: Art from the Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center" at the Ohio History Center, and planning and development of "Let's Explore Ohio" and the Civil War 150 traveling exhibit.

Edna's passing is an enormous loss to the NAAMCC, to the community in Wilberforce, to her peers in studying and presenting African American history in Ohio, and to all of us at the Ohio Historical Society.



Edna Diggs

sional, a scholar, and a friend.

Public History program, Wright State University

Susan Richardson, Public History student

Edna was a wonderful instructor and enthusiastic museum director. She did such a great job of facilitating our class (Museum Interpretation and Exhibits) into a team that was able to put together a professional exhibit on a subject we knew nothing about in a matter of months. Remarkable! But on a more personal note, Edna was a mother of two very successful men. They attended very prestigious universities and she was rightly very proud of them. I remember her telling me they were practically raised in museums.

We were indeed fortunate to have her as our professor. She will be missed by many.

Edna was a history profes-

Words of wisdom on Edna's office wall:

- *Take aim at the areas of your life that need improvement.*
- *Target three areas in your life that could use some help.*
- *Take positive action and make the necessary adjustments to reap the benefits you desire.*

Student Adventures

Chris Wydman, adjunct faculty professor and University Records Manager, and seven students (Chris Bills, David Brownell, Phillip Elam, Liz Haeuptle, Tricia McEldowney, Noel Rihm, and Misti Spillman) attended the Midwest Archives Conference Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. The group left on Wednesday, April 27, and returned Sunday, May 1.

For most of the students it was their first time attending the MAC Annual Meeting. Chris Bills stated, "The size of the meeting was great, especially for first

time conference-goers, and the professional atmosphere was wonderful." When the group arrived in St. Paul Thursday evening, the WSU Alumni Dinner was the first scheduled event. The students met WSU Public History alumni and made new friends by the end of the meal.

Sessions took place on Friday and Saturday, which included the student poster session that Liz Haeuptle and Noel Rihm participated in. After the final session on a Saturday, the gang packed up and hit the road for a long trip back to Dayton.

ful. Noel stated, "It was one of the most inspirational conferences I have been to as a student, it opened up new connections and furthered my networking skills. In comparison with MAC, AAM was much larger. There were many more sessions to choose from and also free sessions for students to meet with advisors and professional members of the community to gain career advice. However, AAM was much harder to navigate and did not pertain to a specific topic or group of people, as MAC did. I enjoyed them both and encourage everyone to seek these wonderful scholarship opportunities and attend conferences!"

Public History students had another great field study experience in Detroit, Michigan in April. The class visited The Motown Museum and The Henry Ford, which is made up of the museum, the historic Greenfield Village and the Benson Ford



Motown. Left to right—back row: Jeri Kniess, David Manges, Jeremy Katz. Middle row: Beth Stanze, Susan Richardson, Maggie Zakri. Front row: Allison Dururp, Jane Leach, Chris Wydman

Research Center. The students had a wonderful time visiting and examining each location. Student, Beth Stanze provided the following insight on her field study experience. "The Henry Ford is a large, interesting complex that focuses on many aspects of American history. The Motown Museum is much smaller and the collection more focused. Our tour guide there really proved that good oral interpretation and interaction with the group can make for a memorable museum visit, no matter the size of the institution."

Opening reception—Wabasha Street Caves.

Left to right: Chris Wydman, Chris Bills, Noel Rihm, Liz Haeuptle, Tricia McEldowney, Misti Spillman, David Brownell, Phillip Elam



For Noel, conference meetings did not end with the MAC. She received the National Association for Museum Exhibition Fellowship and attended the American Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 22-25.

In addition to MAC, her experience at AAM was wonder-

Student Awards and Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following students:

Elise Kelly—Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society on May 13.

Brittany Guerra—Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society on May 13.

Liz Haeuptle—Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society on May 13; Received the School of Graduate Studies Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Public History Program on May 18.

Robin Heise—Inducted into Phi Alpha



Induction ceremony. Left to right—back row: David Manges, Jeannine Jacobs. Front row: Dawne Dewey, Phillip Elam, Beth Hathaway, Brittany Guerra, Robin Heise, Liz Haeuptle

Theta History Honor Society on May 13.

Noel Rihm—Received the National Association for Museum Exhibition Fellowship to attend the American Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 22-25.

Diana Mercer—Presented research on former State Librarian Coggeshall as bodyguard to Abraham Lincoln during the Lincoln & Ohio Lecture Presentation at the State Library of Ohio in Columbus on March 22.

<http://www.wright.edu/cola/Dept/hst/pubhst/index.html>



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Doing Public History the "Wright"
Way since 1974.

The mission of the Public History program at Wright State University is to prepare professionals who are well-grounded in knowledge of historical content, professional training and hands-on experience.

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Directors, History Graduate Program

Dawne Dewey
Director, Public History Program

Liz Haeuptle
Public History Graduate Assistant, Newsletter Editor

Congratulations 2011 Spring Graduates

Elizabeth Ash
Amanda Brewer
David Brownell
Brittany Guerra
Liz Haeuptle
Beth Hathaway
Diana Jacobs
Jeannine Jacobs
Bonnie Roche
Pamela Winchell
Angela Vanderbilt



Left to Right: Bonnie Roche, Brittany Guerra, Diana Jacobs, Angela Vanderbilt, Beth Hathaway, Jeannine Jacobs, Liz Haeuptle